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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE



No. 231

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 22, 1957

LARGE N. C. WHEAT CROP IN PROSPECT

North Carolina 1957 wheat production is forecast at 9,025,000 bushels. If realized, a production of this size would be the second highest of record, exceeded only in 1956 when 9,231,000 bushels were produced. This year's planted acreage for all purposes is indicated at 361,000 compared with 388,000 a year earlier. The indicated yield at 25.0 bushels per seeded acre is the highest of record and compares with 23.8 in 1956.

UNITED STATES

The U. S. winter wheat conditions on April 1 indicated a crop of 669 million bushels. This would be 9 percent smaller than the 1956 crop of 735 million

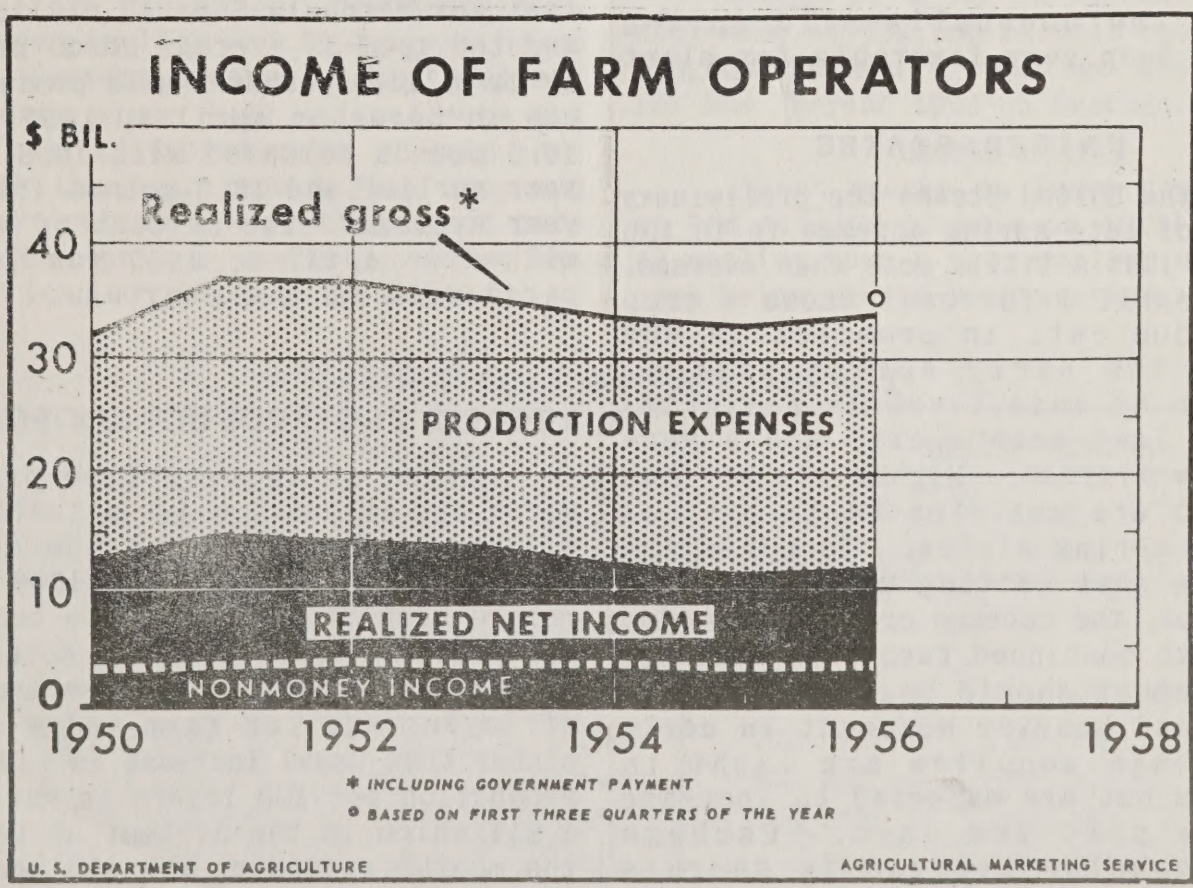
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PEACH CROP PROSPECTS ABOVE AVERAGE

North Carolina peach growers reported the condition of the crop at 88 percent of normal on April 1. Current condition report is 31 percentage points above April 1, 1956, and is 19 percentage points above the 1946-55 average. Reported condition indicates prospects are good to excellent for above average production, barring a freeze or other casualty.

UNITED STATES

April 1 prospects for peaches in the Southern States are above average and the best for that date since 1953. This year's reported average condition of 78 percent for the 9 Southern States compares with 53 percent a year earlier, 2 percent for April 1, 1955, and the 10-year average of 62 percent.



WHEAT *(Continued)*

bushels, 22 percent less than average but 44 million bushels above the December 1 forecast. Increases from prospects as of December 1 have been general throughout the country in Central and Northern Plains States. Improved prospects in Washington, Colorado, Montana, Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Illinois account for most of the increase in indicated production.

The indicated yield of 18.2 bushels per seeded acre is the same as 1947, which is the second highest of record and compares with 16.5 in 1956 and the average of 15.9 bushels. The current estimate is based on an appraisal of the April 1 condition of wheat as reported by individual growers and on soil moisture reserves and other factors affecting production.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE REPORT

CABBAGE, LATE SPRING (East): North Carolina cabbage growers indicate they have planted 2,800 acres for late spring harvest--17 percent above last year's harvested acreage and over 30 percent above average. Reports show that the crop was transplanted under very wet conditions, and, though retarded some because of continuing rains, it is doing fine with the unusually mild spring which has been very favorable for plant growth.

UNITED STATES

For the United States the preliminary estimate of late spring acreage is 10,150 acres--or just a little more than average.

The April 1 forecast shows a crop of 2,240,000 cwt. in prospect in the U. S. for the early spring states. Production at this level is slightly less than last year's crop and 9 percent below average. Higher yields than a year ago are anticipated in most of the early spring states. In Louisiana harvest is just getting under way. In Mississippi, the cabbage crop is unusually good. With continued favorable weather, light movement should begin the middle of April and heavier movement in early May. Cabbage supplies are light in California but are expected to increase within the next few days. Cabbage yields are below average in Georgia because of poor stands and small sizes.

Prospects are for about an average crop in Alabama, with harvest expected to begin a little later than normal. An excellent crop is indicated for South Carolina. Movement there has already started and will be heavy by late April.

LETTUCE: On April 1 the North Carolina lettuce crop was generally in good condition, and, if present prospects continue, a crop of 153,000 cwt. is expected for 1957.

UNITED STATES

Indicated production in the 5 early spring states at 6,595,000 cwt. is down about 200,000 cwt. from the March forecast. In Arizona where an average crop is indicated, harvest is expected to be at the most active level during April. While harvest is currently under way in California, the important Salinas and Santa Maria areas are not expected to be in volume production until late April.

BEETS: As of April 1 a crop of 34,000 cwt. is forecast for North Carolina which is 1,000 cwt. short of last year's production.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION IN MARCH

Milk production on North Carolina farms during March totaled 146 million pounds. Production in March set a new record high for the month and exceeded that for March 1956 by 12 million pounds and the 1946-55 average March production by 24 million pounds. Milk production per cow in herds on April 1, 1957 averaged 17.5 pounds compared with 16.6 pounds a year earlier and 13.3 pounds for the 10-year average. The percent of milk cows milked on April 1, 1957 was 76.6 compared with 74.8 a year ago.

RECORD EGG PRODUCTION FOR MARCH

Based on reports from producers, March egg production is estimated at 176 million, a new high for the month and about 15 million above the 1956 previous record high production. The increase in egg production for March is attributed to an increase in number of hens and pullets of laying age per farm and a slightly higher than usual increase in rate of lay. Production per 100 layers is estimated at 1,854 which is the highest of record for the month, exceeding the old record high for March of 1954 by about 2.0 percent.

A gradual improvement in fed cattle prices is likely through mid-summer. Marketings will run about as large as last year but will be more evenly distributed by months.

Prices of cows and stock cattle will depend largely on the weather. Normal spring rains probably would slow marketings of animals off grass. This would delay the seasonal decline in prices this spring.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS APRIL 1

CORN

April 1, 1957 stocks of corn on Tarheel farms was estimated at 29,072,000 bushels compared with 27,559,000 bushels a year ago and 25,977,000 for the 1946-55 ten-year average.

UNITED STATES

A total of 1,615 million bushels of corn was stored on farms April 1. This was 8 percent more than a year earlier and 22 percent above average.

OATS

Stocks of oats on N. C. farms are estimated at 4,133,000 bushels compared with 2,732,000 bushels a year earlier and 1,903,000 for the 1946-55 average.

UNITED STATES

Stocks of oats stored on farms are estimated at 410 million bushels, 28 percent less than the 567 million bushels on farms a year earlier and 17 percent below average. Current stocks are the smallest for the date since 1948 and reflects the sharply lower 1956 production of oats compared with the near record 1955 crop and average production. Approximately 6 percent of the April 1 stocks on farms was under CCC loan or purchase agreements.

SOYBEANS

Stocks of soybeans on farms in N. C. are estimated to be 1,073,000 bushels compared with 1,064,000 a year ago and 816,000 for the 1946-55 average. A large part of soybean stocks on farms will be used to plant the 1957 crop. March 1 intention reports indicated 543,000 acres to be grown alone for all purposes in 1957.

UNITED STATES

Record soybean stocks on farms April 1 totaled 116 million bushels. This is nearly double the quantity on farms a year earlier and exceeds by 3 million the previous record stocks of April 1, 1955. The 1946-55 average for the date is 51 million bushels.

WHEAT

Stocks of wheat on Tarheel farms are estimated at 738,000 bushels compared with 778,000 bushels a year ago and 1,008,000 for the 10-year 1946-55 average.

UNITED STATES

Wheat stocks on farms are estimated at 166 million bushels on April 1, and is 23 smaller than a year earlier and 26 percent below the 10-year average.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARM APRIL 1

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1946-55	1956	1957	Average 1946-55	1956	1957
-- THOUSAND BUSHELS --						
Corn	25,977	27,559	29,072	1,319,022	1,494,102	1,615,149
Wheat	1,008	778	738	222,782	216,741	165,959
Oats	1,903	2,732	4,133	495,852	567,357	410,427
Barley	213	248	528	80,414	116,489	104,052
Rye	26	42	20	4,131	10,976	4,541
Soybeans	816	1,064	1,073	50,730	60,334	116,323

U. S. IRISH POTATOES REPORT AS OF APRIL 1

The 1957 production of winter potatoes in Florida and California is placed at 6,445,000 hundredweight, 23 percent above last year and 81 percent above average. Practically all of the increase over last year occurred in California where the 1957 production of 3,570 hundredweight was 43 percent above 1956. Florida's production of 2,875,000 hundredweight this year is only slightly above the 2,768,000 hundredweight harvested last year. The decline in prospects in Florida from a month ago was due to poorer yields brought about by excessive rainfall during the season. The 1957 yield, at 125 hundredweight, compares with 173 hundredweight per acre harvested from the 1956 crop and the 1949-55 average of 161 hundredweight.

Production of early spring potatoes is forecast at 4,314,000 hundredweight, 7 percent above the 1956 crop and 39 percent above average. The effect of a 23 percent larger acreage for harvest this year over 1956 was minimized by lower yields expected in 1957. The yield per acre of 134.8 hundredweight forecast for 1957 compares with the yield of 154.1 hundredweight harvested from the 1956 acreage. The acreage in the Hastings area of Florida is placed at 26,000 acres, 24 percent above 1956 and 71 percent above average.

In the Hastings area of Florida, unfavorable conditions such as drought, frost and excessive rains, have lowered yield prospects compared with last year. A light set of tubers and a probable heavy pickout is expected. However, fields dug to date have produced good sized tubers. Light harvesting operations are in progress with the peak harvest expected around May 1. In the LaCrosse-Brooker section of North Florida, recent growing conditions have been favorable for the crop to overcome much of the set back received from frost in early March. The small acreage in the Balm section is now being harvested. In the Everglades, fair to good prospects are reported. The yield of the small early spring acreage in Texas is expected to equal 1956.

Acreage for harvest in the late spring states is placed at 173,900 acres, 5 percent above the 165,900 acres harvested in 1956 and 14 percent less than

the 7-year average of 201,700 acres. California, which normally produces about one-third of the acreage, reports 67,000 acres in 1957, or 6 percent more than last year and the same percent above the January 1, 1957 intentions. The increase was quite general in all areas of California except the Chino district of San Bernardino county. Growing conditions have been good and the crop appears in excellent condition. Some acreage will be ready for harvest during the third week of April in the Edison district of Kern County. Growers in NORTH CAROLINA report acreage for harvest at 25,000 acres or 7 percent above 1956. Adverse weather conditions have caused considerable rotting of potato seed and many are replanting. The crop is generally said to be about a month late because of these conditions. In South Carolina, a slight increase in the Charleston area offsets a small decrease in other areas. Weather and soil conditions have been quite favorable for growth. The acreage for harvest in the Baldwin area of Alabama is placed at 17,000 acres or 10 percent above last year. Freezing temperatures prevailing during the first week of March damaged some acreage that had been planted early. Recovery was rapid. At the present time, the crop is in good condition. Some unusually late acreage was planted in 1957. Harvesting of early acreage is expected during the last week of April. The Louisiana acreage is in fine condition and the earliest for several years. Some very early acreage is being harvested for local markets. Heavier movement is expected around mid-April. The slight increase in acreage this year occurred mostly in the Terrebonne-Lafourche area. The acreage in Arizona is placed at 5,000 acres or 16 percent above 1956. *For details of the report by States, see table on page 5.*

Not much change in BROILER PRICES is likely the next few months. Placements of broiler chicks have been high and probably will rise further the next few months. But demand also is likely to strengthen seasonally as summer approaches.

IRISH POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	HARVESTED ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	Average		Ind.	Average		Ind.	Average		Ind.
	1949-55	1956	1957	1949-55	1956	1957	1949-55	1956	1957
	(000) ACRES			CWT.			(000 CWT.)		
WINTER:									
Fla.....	11.0	16.0	23.0	161	173	125	1,787	2,768	2,875
Calif.....	11.6	17.8	21.0	155	140	170	1,768	2,492	3,570
Total Winter..	22.6	33.8	44.0	156.6	155.6	146.5	3,554	5,260	6,445
EARLY SPRING:									
Fla-Hastings...	15.2	21.0	26.0	162	168	140	2,470	3,528	3,640
-Other.....	4.3	4.7	5.7	105	100	115	455	470	656
Tex.....	4.2	.4	.3	42	60	60	184	24	18
Total Early Spring.....	23.7	26.1	32.0	131.4	154.1	134.8	3,110	4,022	4,314
LATE SPRING:									
N. Car.....	27.1	23.3	25.0	102	100	*	2,738	2,330	*
S. Car.....	11.7	8.0	8.0	79	82	*	922	656	*
Ga.....	3.2	2.2	2.0	59	58	*	191	128	*
Ala-Baldwin....	18.8	15.4	17.0	91	112	*	1,765	1,725	*
-Other.....	13.0	8.5	8.5	45	50	*	589	425	*
Miss.....	11.3	9.5	9.5	39	39	*	444	370	*
Ark.....	15.7	9.5	9.5	49	54	*	770	513	*
La.....	11.8	8.3	8.8	40	49	*	467	407	*
Okla.....	6.5	4.8	4.5	50	47	*	325	226	*
Tex.....	11.8	9.1	9.1	44	45	*	513	410	*
Ariz.....	4.6	4.3	5.0	224	250	*	1,045	1,075	*
Calif.....	66.1	63.0	67.0	260	255	*	17,084	16,065	*
Total Late Spring.....	201.7	165.9	173.9	133.8	146.7	*	26,853	24,330	*

* First report for the season will be released May 10.

MARCH 1 SWEET POTATO STOCKS DOWN ONE-THIRD FROM FEBRUARY 1

A total of 340,000 cwt. of sweet potatoes are indicated as having been in storage in North Carolina on March 1, 1957, according to indications from a special farm and warehouse survey conducted by the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service. This is 33 percent less than the 507,000 cwt. in storage for February 1. The difference is accounted for by sales, consumption, and spoilage. Of the total quantity of sweet potatoes in storage March 1, 196,000 cwt. or 57.6 percent was in commercial storage. The remaining 144,000 cwt. or 42.4 percent was stored

on farms. Grower-owned stocks amount to 183,000 cwt. of which 39,000 is in commercial storage.

Warehousemen expected losses of March 1 holdings through decay and shrinkage to average about 20 percent. Farm storage losses may run higher; however, no reliable estimates are available.

The Coastal Plains area of the State accounted for 158,000 cwt. or 86.3 percent of all grower-owned stocks. On-farm storage in this area accounts for 120,000 cwt. or 83.3 percent of all on-farm storage for the State as a whole.

TOBACCO OUTLOOK

The 1957 output of cigarettes--the leading outlet for flue-cured, burley, and Maryland tobacco--is expected to be higher than the 424 billion turned out in 1956. Last year's total was 3 percent above 1955 and above any previous year except 1952 when output reached 435½ billion. The number of cigarettes consumed in the United States at 392 billion was 2½ percent above 1955 and 6 percent above 1954. Exports of cigarettes during 1956 were up a little from each of the previous 2 years, but other shipments, mostly to overseas forces, in both 1956 and 1955 were about one-fourth less than the 1950-54 average. The 1956 output of smoking tobacco for pipes and 'roll-your-own' cigarettes at 71½ million pounds dropped 11 percent from 1955--the sharpest drop since immediately following World War II.

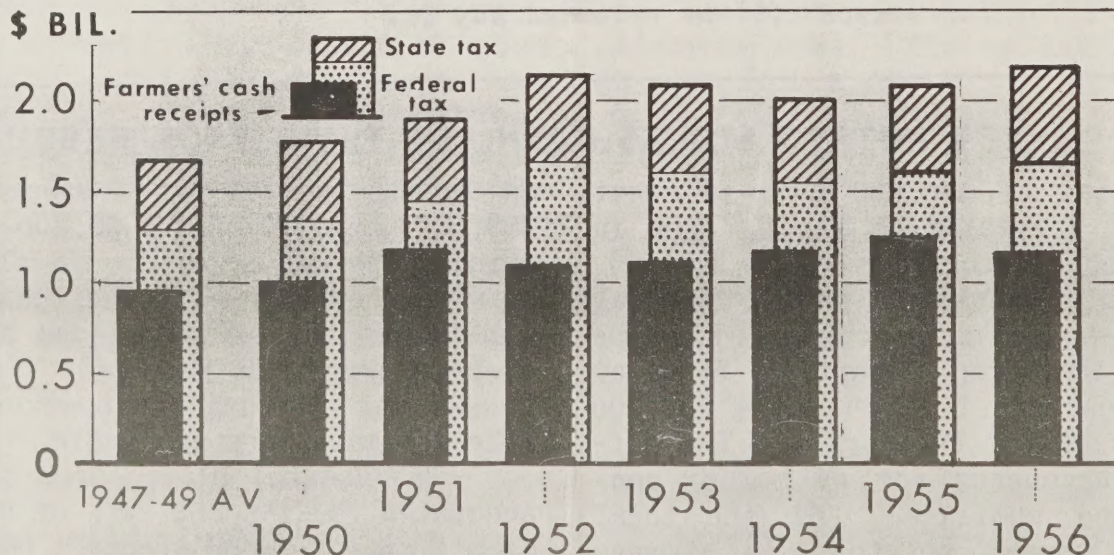
In the current marketing year, preliminary indications are that domestic use of flue-cured, burley, and Maryland tobacco will not be markedly different than in 1955-56. This is in spite of the increase in cigarette manufacture. In recent years, the amount of leaf tobacco used in cigarettes has become less standardized. Most filter brands, reported to be still expanding in production and use, require less tobacco than either regular or king size, non-filter tip brands. This plus the use

of tobacco sheet and stems, and improvements in processing techniques and machinery are enabling manufacturers to turn out more cigarettes from a given quantity of leaf tobacco.

The total supplies for 1956-57 of flue-cured and burley are about 3.7 and 1.8 billion pounds. The flue-cured supply is 4 percent greater than the previous high in 1955-56. Burley is a little below last year and about 3 percent below the peak 1954-55 level. The 1957 prospective acreage for flue-cured as of March 1 is 24 percent smaller than 1956 harvested acreage and reflects mainly the cut in acreage allotments. Placement of acreage in the reserve of the Soil Bank program also is contributing to the reduction. Growers signed up a total of over 78,000 acres of all types tobacco through March 15. About 45,600 acres were flue-cured, 6,760 acres burley and the remainder, other types. The 1957 prospective acreage for burley is almost as large as that harvested in 1956. Burley acreage allotments for most farms are unchanged from last year.

The carryover of flue-cured on July 1 will reach a new high. But total supply for 1957-58 may be about 7 percent lower than for 1956-57, because of the expected reduction in this year's crop.

GOVERNMENT TAX RECEIPTS FROM TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND FARMERS' CASH RECEIPTS FROM TOBACCO



WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1957

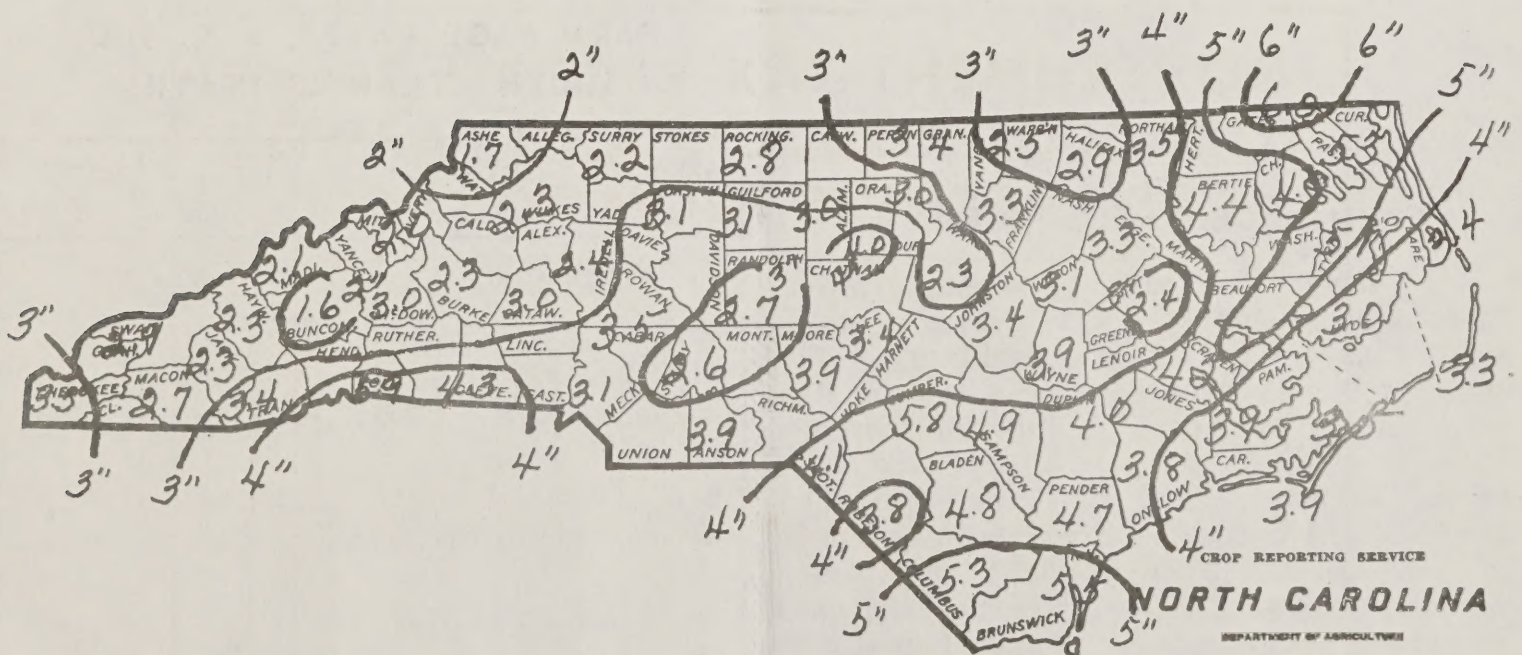
March was a quiet month in North Carolina, with no unusual extremes of weather, and perhaps less of stormy winds and other violent weather than is usual at the time of year. There was more cloudiness and less sunshine than the usual March has, but the month was not as gloomy as January and February. Sunshine was recorded on about half the daylight hours in March at all stations in North Carolina where sunshine records are kept, and clouds covered an average of less than two-thirds of the sky. The longest cloudy period in March was the week beginning the 3rd; very little sunshine was seen that week in any part of the State.

March temperature weather was uncommonly mild in North Carolina, with no unusual extremes of heat or cold. Except for higher mountain elevations, the lowest temperature of the month was above 20 degrees. On the other extreme, the highest of the month did not anywhere exceed the middle seventies. In general, the middle third of March was the warmest; temperatures averaged above normal at most stations from the 11th through the 19th. The

warmest day occurred on the 12th or 15th at most places. Before and after the mid-month warm period, temperatures were consistently normal or a little below. The lowest individual readings came on various dates at the different stations, ranging as early as the 8th and as late as the 24th.

Rainy days were a little less frequent in March than in January or February, but rain continued, as in the earlier months, to fall in frequent small to moderate amounts. Most places in North Carolina had at least twelve March days with measurable rain, but only a few stations had as much as an inch in any one day. The distribution of rain over the State was quite different in March than in the first two months of 1957, however; the Mountains, which had very large rainfall totals in January and February, received the smallest amounts in March. Most Mountain stations had only half or two thirds of the normal March totals. The Piedmont area also ranged a little below long-term averages, but most stations in the Coastal Plain had normal or greater rain.

INCHES OF RAINFALL MARCH, 1957



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
State Climatologist

FARM REPORT

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FARM WAGE RATES, N. C. AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

FARM WAGE RATES INCREASE

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers about April 1, 1957 averaged somewhat higher than a year earlier. The April 1, 1957 average of \$4.60 per day with house was only about two percent above the \$4.50 average a year ago, but rates without board or room increased almost eight percent - from \$5.30 on April 1, 1956 to \$5.70 on April 1 this year. The hourly rate of pay with house furnished increased only one cent, from 54 cents to 55 cents per hour while the hourly rate without board or room increased from 65 cents a year ago to 70 cents.

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	April 1 1956	April 1 1957
<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	
Per Day:		
With House.....	4.50	4.60
Without Board or Room..	5.30	5.70
Per Hour:		
With House.....	.54	.55
Without Board or Room..	.65	.70
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES</u>		
Per Day:		
With House.....	4.40	4.60
Without Board or Room..	5.10	5.40
Per Hour:		
With House.....	.57	.59
Without Board or Room..	.68	.70